

Full Team Minutes, August 22, 2013
National Stakeholder Team for PSEP Funding

Welcomes were extended to new Team co-lead and all new team members. New Team co-lead is Chuck Moses, representing the Association of American Pesticide Control Officials (AAPCO), from the Nevada Department of Agriculture.

General Announcements

The Stakeholder Team's May "proposal" is now called the PSEP Improvement and Modernization Initiative ("PSEP IMI"). The initial Board of PSEP IMI has been approved by the Team and the initiative has been "spun-off" (one-page summary was sent with the agenda on August 20). The Stakeholder Team is now SEPARATE from PSEP IMI, but will provide support as requested by the PSEP IMI Board.

The Stakeholder Team will now transition from identification of various funding opportunities by its four workgroups during 2013, to a deeper evaluation and pursuit of promising options. All of the workgroups are diverse and would benefit from additional members – don't hesitate to join a workgroup that focuses on something you know nothing about. In particular, the Federal and new University workgroups have much to do at the current time.

Team and Workgroup minutes, and many key documents, are posted on psep.us

ADDENDUM: Membership of each workgroup (as of 9/3/13) appears at the end of the minutes.

Workgroup Updates – focus, needs, and/or next steps

1. Federal Workgroup Update (Chuck Moses); next call September 5.

Chuck brings State Lead Agency perspective to this workgroup; Nevada SLA works closely with its PSEP. Liza Fleeson, former Team co-lead, will remain on this workgroup. Additional members are desired and prior expertise in action items is not needed.

Course of action of this workgroup will focus on four specific areas:

- a) IPM grants – currently contain some language supporting IPM for pesticide applicators, but this Team will draft letters requesting more attention to the pesticide safety education as a component of IPM
- b) Federal pesticide maintenance fees – current PRIA expires 2017
- c) Other PRIA support – want to maintain current \$500K support of PSEP and look at other opportunities, e.g. Worker Protection
- d) Negotiated EPA settlements (state settlements also used to support some PSEPs, e.g. Nevada)

Leslie Gibert (NIFA) noted that \$167K of the last \$500K PSEP contribution from PRIA is still on NIFA's books as unspent. A one-year no-cost extension is possible if negotiated by 8/31/13.

Most likely, this \$167K has been spent, but university billing lags (as in the past). Carol Black requested the list of universities that have not drawn down the 2012 funds, to assist Leslie. If any money is truly unspent, it is not possible to re-direct it to other PSEPs. (ADDENDUM: the correct deadline for university billing is late November. In the previous year, only \$9,910.96 of the \$500K PRIA PSEP funds was not billed.)

Carol Black noted that Jim Jones of EPA attended the August PACT meeting and was interested in the idea of negotiated EPA settlements supporting PSEP. The Federal Workgroup should develop a position paper immediately on this subject, to share with EPA and others. Jim's support is on the record.

2. State Workgroup Update (Andrew Thostenson); next call in October

This workgroup looked at how PSEPs are supported at the state level (by SLA, state registration fees, fines, etc.) Some state PSEPs receive excellent support via their SLA or state registration fees. (Sale of manuals, and training fees, are also excellent support mechanisms in some states, but they will be considered further by the University Workgroup.)

Related to PSEP IMI is the goal to assist states that pursue state solutions to sustainable PSEP support.

Somody noted some advantages of state pesticide registration fee increases that are specifically targeted to PSEP – there are already state success stories, this does not take a huge fee increase (with 11,000 pesticide registrations not atypical in a state), it provides consistent funding, and can be designed to meet state-specific pesticide training needs (which vary). The disadvantage is that this is a state-by-state effort, requiring more overall work than a national solution, but this Team and its members could have key facilitating roles in support of such legislation in states that pursued it.

Black mentioned that she knows of one state lead agency that will be requesting a maintenance fee increase in 2014-15, and that perhaps their need could be connected to support for PSEP. It was suggested that the State Workgroup develop a matrix of state maintenance fees and their intended schedule for increases. Somody noted that PSEP IMI will also consider support for states that are not planning an increase, but are interested in doing so for PSEP.

3. University Workgroup (new) – Carol Black; next call September 4

Much work will be done via email. Workgroup will support PSEP IMI by asking state PSEPs to a) validate their current financial condition (provided by PSEPs in 2013 survey) by mid-October and b) give permission to share this information on a confidential basis with the PSEP IMI Board.

University Workgroup will also develop background documents on university support. TX and MN, for example, have strong business plan models which this workgroup can study. In addition, the impact of state laws, university policies, and politics on overhead, manual sales, training course charges, etc. must be understood in each state.

4. Non-Government Workgroup and Other Workgroup – Carol Somody; next call in September

Please send any comments in opposition to the merger of these two workgroups by Sept 6.

Various members of the Non-Government Workgroup have spent significant time this summer moving the “proposal” (now PSEP IMI) forward within and beyond their organizations.

The Other Workgroup under Carol Black has played a critical role in consolidating key data and also compiled a list of national, regional and state organizations (using WA as an example) that should have an interest in supporting PSEP (see [Compilation of Interested PSEP Parties](#) on psep.us.)

Next significant activities for the Non-Government/Other Workgroup:

1. Reach out beyond the Big-6 registrants for funds for PSEP IMI:

a) Have asked CLA and RISE to help by providing list of pesticide manufacturers, formulators, and distributors (decisions pending).

b) Will also reach out to national and state associations for contributions – need to define the most efficient and effective communication methods as soon as PSEP IMI contribution method via CropLife Foundation is finalized.

2. Assist the Federal Workgroup on PRIA analysis concerning 1) federal pesticide maintenance fees, 2) cooperative agreements, and 3) partnership grants. (PRIA money originates from registrants.)

3. Other direct and indirect support ideas from these workgroups must still be explored – e.g. commodity check-offs, insurance company support.

ADDENDUM: This workgroup will also assist the Federal Workgroup on an IPM position paper concerning support for PSE.

PSEP IMI Update – Andrew Thostenson

Proposal developed in April, followed by in-depth discussions with Big-6, CLA, and RISE. Financial commitments are currently at \$600K per year for this three-year initiative. Organizing call was held by Board co-chairs (Andrew Thostenson and Bob Magee) and Carol Somody (note-taker) on August 13. First full Board call was August 20. Timeline is very aggressive, with the Request for Proposals (RFP) released to PSEPs on September 30. It is hoped that PSEPs will evaluate funding options and apply for funding.

Board will evaluate applications and prioritize, disbursing funds by February 28, 2014. There is much work to be done by the Board, but the Board is diverse and committed, and fund disbursement is not subject to USDA/EPA rules. It is possible that some additional registrants may commit to funding this month. The Weed Science Society of America, which is a member of the Stakeholder Team, is issuing a press release about PSEP IMI on August 30.

Pre-RFP release information should go to PSEPs in mid-September. First draft RFP has been prepared by Larry Olsen, with the 4-H Foundation’s RFP as the starting point.

Other Comments

Kerry Richards (Penn State University PSEP) thanked the Team and indicated that her program is well-supported. Pesticide registration fees were increased in Pennsylvania in the past, with industry support, for specific uses including pesticide safety education and stewardship. PSEP support comes from other sources in addition to these fees. (ADDENDUM: Kerry provided additional details to the Steering Committee after the call, which will be helpful to Team Workgroups and to the PSEP IMI Board.)

Natalia Clifton (University of Massachusetts PSEP) noted that, relevant to PSEP IMI, university grant overhead is a real problem. The \$10K PRIA contribution to her PSEP was subject to overhead. PSEP IMI could require overhead but limit it, e.g. 10%.

(The 10% level appears in the first draft of PSEP IMI RFP, but will likely be debated by the PSEP IMI Board. At least some members would prefer a requirement of no overhead, as a way the university can support the goal of assisting their PSEP in becoming sustainable.)

Richard Beard (Utah State University PSEP) pointed out that, if the RFP required matching funds, the overhead could be taken from the match. Also, funds do not have to be directed through Sponsored Programs (which charge overhead).

These will be some of the important alternatives to explore if a university pushes back against whatever overhead maximum is specified in the RFP.

Membership of Each Workgroup (as of September 3, 2013)

Federal Workgroup

Chuck Moses –Lead

Liza Fleeson

Jim Fredericks

Leslie Gilbert

Richard Gupton

Ronda Hirnyck

Jeanne Kasai

Kevin Keaney

Dave Scott

Carol Somody

Andrew Thostenson

Lee Van Wychen

State Workgroup

Andrew Thostenson – Lead

Liza Fleeson

Linda Johns

Jeanne Kasai

Jack Peterson

Richard Pont

Don Rennie

Vickie Rengers

Dave Scott

Carol Somody
Joe Spitzmueller
Renee Woody

University Workgroup (new)

Carol Black – Lead

Candace Bartholomew
Richard Beard
Dan Hanselka
Dean Herzfeld
Ronda Hirnyck
Jackie Lee
Dean McCorkle
Frannie Miller
Richard Pont
Kim Pope
Harvey Reissig
Don Rennie
Vickie Rengers
Carol Somody
Ples Spradley
Sherm Takatori
Sonja Thomas
Thia Walker

Non-Government and Other Workgroup (merged)

Carol Somody –Lead

Carol Black
Tom Delaney
Donna Farmer
Liza Fleeson
Richard Gupton
Allan Hovis
Scott Jackson
Linda Johns
Kevin Keaney
Denise King
Bob Magee
Andrew Moore
Phillip Mulder
Jack Peterson
Don Rennie
Andrew Thostenson
Renee Woody